



821 Williamson St. \* Madison, Wisconsin 53703-4503 \* Phone (608) 257-0491 \* Fax (608) 257-1168

# Solidarity!

## School Safety Focus

All MTI members received an e-mail update last week which included the following statement of the WEAC Board of Directors adopted by the MTI Board of Directors:

### ***WE CALL FOR UNITY, COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS & APRIL 20 DAY OF ACTION***

- *We condemn the current reality that results in making our students and our schools fundamentally unsafe in America.*
- *We condemn the blatant, unbridled racist statements made against Haiti, El Salvador, African nations, and immigrants by President Trump. We call on elected officials to stand with us in condemning the comments made by the President of the United States.*
- *We condemn the current gun culture of America and support the NEA in calling for common sense gun control laws to make schools safer in light of yet another tragic school shooting.*
- *We support WEAC and NEA's efforts to assist locals and regions in supporting the NEA in its efforts for a Day of Action on April 20.*

MTI leadership also recognizes that safety solutions require both practical and political action.

**On the practical front**, the MTI-MMSD Safety Committee is scheduled to meet March 8 to review MMSD code red protocols, discuss physical security upgrades (e.g. classroom doors which lock from the inside, etc.), building based safety committees, and other recommendations advanced by MTI members, as well as those recommendations advanced by the **Final Report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission**, a blue-ribbon report with recommendations for school districts and law enforcement in hopes of avoiding similar tragedies.

**On the political front**, MTI has joined the MMSD, Dane County Executive Parisi, and others in calling for the Governor and Legislature to call a special legislative session to require mandatory background checks; ban assault weapons and devices, such as bump stocks that modify guns to be rapid-firing; and

prevent domestic abusers from owning guns. We are firmly opposed to any proposals to arm teachers or introduce more guns in schools. We also recommend that the Governor and Legislature provide additional funding for school safety and security upgrades, and adopt the comprehensive recommendations advanced by the blue-ribbon Sandy Hook Commission following that tragedy.

To highlight the importance of these issues and to push our legislative leaders to act, MTI is encouraging members to support local and national actions being organized to build awareness including:

### **March 14 "17 Minute" Observance**

MTI, WEAC and NEA call all staff to **WEAR ORANGE TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE**. MTI is encouraging members to plan with school based leaders and participate **in school** with their students in the 17 minutes of Action at 10:00 a.m., on March 14. An e-mail went out last week with ways to observe the 17 minutes.

### **March 14 High School Students Walk-out**

Some high school students are planning a walk out at noon. The students have been informed this will count as an unexcused absence. Staff are expected to perform their job as usual unless they have received approval for a personal leave day (requests require a five day notice). Principals will try to honor as many as they can while continuing to keep students safe and adequately supported.

### **April 20 National Day of Action**

As we plan for action, MTI site-based leaders and members are asked to meet and plan with a purposeful eye toward impactful, age appropriateness of activities, and conversations around the day of action. Last week's e-mail blast contained both ideas and a way to contribute ideas for action. Actions continue to be planned. E-mail ideas to Kerry at: [kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org](mailto:kmotoviloff@madisonteachers.org).

More information is available on MTI's webpage at: [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org) under the School Safety tab.

## Nominations Due for MTI Officers and Bargaining Committee

Any **member** of MTI's "teacher" collective bargaining unit who is interested in nominating a colleague, or himself/herself, for Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer should call or email MTI Executive Director Doug Keillor ([keillord@madisonteachers.org](mailto:keillord@madisonteachers.org)/257-0491). The term of office for these positions is one year. As of this writing, seeking re-election are incumbents **Cari Falk** (Badger Rock) for Secretary and **Andy Mayhall** (Thoreau) for Treasurer. A vacancy exists for Vice-President. Current President **Andy Waity** (Thoreau) serves as President through the 2018-19 school year.

Nominations are also open for five (5) positions on the 15-member MTI Bargaining Committee. Of the 15 positions, one position each from elementary school; middle school; and high school levels; plus one at-large and one educational services positions are elected each year. Terms are for three (3) years. Seeking election are: for High School Representative – incumbent **Steve Somerson** (East); Middle School - incumbent **Michael Hay-Chapman** (Spring Harbor); and Student Services - **Karyn Chacon** (East). There are vacancies for **Elementary School Representative** and **At-Large Representative**. Terms for all positions are three years.

Nominations for both the MTI Officers and Bargaining Committee will be received and closed at the **March 20** meeting of the MTI Faculty Representative Council. Nominations can also be made by an MTI Faculty Representative, from the floor, at the March 20 meeting. MTI's general election will be held April 23-25.

### “Staff Only” Day March 16 Structure of Day Determined by Principal and SBLT

There is no school for students on the March 16 “Staff Only” day (formerly known as PD days). The Employee Handbook, Section 4.06, provides that there will be one (1) full Staff Only day per quarter, and that **“the structure of the day is to be determined collaboratively at the building level by the principal and SBLT.”** Such time shall include collaborative learning that supports and enhances the quality of teaching and is aligned to each school's SIP goals and strategies.” **Educational Assistants and School Security Assistants have a mandatory work-day on March 16.** Various professional development opportunities are available to specific groups within these bargaining units, at the District or individual school level.

### ESEA-MTI Membership Meeting March 21; Election of Officers

Members of MTI's Educational Support Employees Association bargaining unit (ESEA-MTI) will meet on Wednesday, March 21, commencing at 4:15 p.m., at MTI. There are many issues of importance to discuss, including nominations for positions on the ESEA-MTI Board of Directors. Members may also make nominations via the nomination form that was sent to all ESEA-MTI bargaining unit members, or contact MTI Assistant Director Eve Degen ([degene@madisonteachers.org](mailto:degene@madisonteachers.org)). Nominations will close at the March 21 meeting. **It's your Union; get involved!**

## MTI Membership Opportunities

The following meetings, seminars, and workshops are available to MTI members *only*.

### MTI & WEA Member Benefits: Financial Services for MTI Members

MTI and WEA Member Benefits are providing more opportunities to enhance the financial well-being of MTI members. More information and sign-ups for both seminars and consultations can be found at [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org) or [www.weabenefits.com/mti](http://www.weabenefits.com/mti).

#### Thursday, March 15—Preparing for Retirement

In addition, **Steve Pike** (retired teacher and current WEA Member Benefits Consultant) is available for a **free 60-minute financial consultation**. This is ideal if you are just getting started, have specific questions, or would like a quick check-in. It's a convenient way to meet with someone face-to-face to get some general help or guidance. Consultations are held at MTI Headquarters.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MTI National Board Certification Training Workshops for 2017-18.** MTI members pursuing National Board Certification are invited to participate in monthly NBC support workshops. The next session is March 14. Contact MTI to register.

#### MTI members in need of assistance:

See your MTI Faculty Rep or contact MTI staff (257-0491 or [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org)) should you have a question or need *assistance with any work-related matter*.

## Calendar of Events

- Monday, March 5, 4:15 p.m., MTI  
Special Education Sub-Committee
- Wednesday, March 7, 4:00 p.m., MTI  
New Professionals—Student Loan Forgiveness
- Monday, March 12, 4:00 p.m., MTI  
New Educators Seminar
- Tuesday, March 13, 4:30 p.m., MTI  
MTI Board of Directors
- Wednesday, March 14, 4:15 p.m., MTI  
USO-MTI Board of Directors
- Wednesday, March 14, 5:30 p.m., MTI  
National Board Certification Training
- Tuesday, March 20, 4:15 p.m., MTI  
MTI Faculty Representative Council
- Wednesday, March 21, 4:30 p.m., MTI  
ESEA-MTI General Membership

### March 26-30—Spring Break

**Save the Date! April 15, 2018  
MTI Cares Bowl-A-Thon for  
Food for Thought Initiative (F4TI)**

**Volume 52, #26, March 5, 2018**

MTI's web page - [www.madisonteachers.org](http://www.madisonteachers.org)  
MTI's email - [MTI@madisonteachers.org](mailto:MTI@madisonteachers.org)